

March 13, 2012

To: Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee

Testimony in support of Raised Bill #352: AN ACT CREATING A PROCESS FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS TO COLLECTIVELY BARGAIN WITH THE STATE

My name is Wanda Bermudez and I have been a childcare provider in East Hartford for 8 years now. I took up this job, as I have a passion for children. I take pride in knowing that by the time they leave my daycare, they are well prepared for kindergarten. We have reading times each day where I ensure that they learn their ABC's and alphabet. Every month we have a parent educator who stops by my house who takes the time to read to the children. In my daycare we also have an education board on the wall and we put up informative pieces for every occasion such as Black history month and Easter - the children help decorate this. I consider this job important because I realize the parents sometimes cannot afford to spend as much time with these children as they are trying to make a living. So I help out the parents and also work with them when it comes to their monthly co-payments.

To keep my business going, I buy supplies, update reading/learning materials, workbooks; but Care4Kids does not offer any reimbursement for this. Having collective bargaining will ensure that providers are recognized and appreciated for the work that they do. It will also strengthen us and make sure continue provide quality childcare and are given the support to do so.

Wanda Bermudez

East Hartford